assist them. It is well I had Sir S. Smith's business to occupy me, or I should have *seche sur pied* for want of employment.

I hear frequently from Le Moine, in better English than he used to write. By his account he is very decently provided for from his little estate. What a new race is now in possession of France! But I think that in a generation or two, *a, quelque chose près,* the people will be just like their predecessors. It will require great efforts to re-establish an *appearance* even of morality, decency and probity, which was nearly the sum-total of what existed before. At the present crisis, immorality is at its height. Education and laws well enforced may bring things back to order; but I look upon the younger part of the generation—I mean such as were about seventeen at the beginning of the Revolution — as irretrievable. Very little can be expected even from those who are now of that age. Future good citizens and men of honour can only be hoped for from the number of those who are now ten years

old.

I think there is such a lassitude in the whole nation, such a horror of being forced to fresh exertions of any kind, that those who at present rule will find it an easy matter to prevent any